

needy during the holidays. I commend the faculty of the school as well as all the students, parents, and individuals who contributed to their benefit. Their selfless dedication has provided warmth, comfort, and happiness to families in Colorado. That the school produced so much for the Salvation Army for the benefit of the needy is testament to the true meaning of the spirit of Christmas and Hanukkah. Let us remember, as these good people have, that the holiday season is one of giving, one of joy, and one of hope. Let the children's example during the holidays be a beacon to us all throughout the year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, due to a family illness, I was unable to attend votes this week. Had I been here I would have made the following votes: Roll Call No. 29—"aye," Roll Call No. 30—"aye," Roll Call No. 31—"aye," Roll Call No. 32—"aye," and Roll Call No. 33—"aye."

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, 1848 was a year of great tumult across the continent of Europe. Men, women, and children rebelled against the shackles of repressive aristocracies to demand a greater voice and greater freedoms. From these heroic uprisings, the seeds of change were permanently planted in Europe. Today, I rise to join Hungarian-Americans and the people of Hungary in commemorating the anniversary of start of one of these noble uprisings, the 1848 Hungarian revolution.

On March 3, 1848—as revolution gripped much of Europe—a brave Hungarian patriot, Louis Kossuth, stood up against the ruling Austrian Hapsburg empire. In his "inaugural address of the revolution", Kossuth enumerated 12 sweeping reforms that reflected some of the most progressive ideas of the age, such as a reduction of feudal rights and the emancipation of the peasant. This declaration struck an immediate chord with the Hungarian people. The reforms immediately spurred the Austrian people to demand similar rights, and on March 13, a full-fledged revolution broke out in Vienna.

On March 15, while Kossuth was in Vienna presenting his 12 points to the Habsburg monarchy, students in Buda-Pest armed only with Kossuth's reforms seized control in what has come to be known as the bloodless revolution. The following day the Hungarian delegation, led by Kossuth, submitted Hungary's demands before Emperor-King Ferdinand. The Austrian monarch quickly agreed to the points, prompt-

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ing the Hungarian Diet to put the revolutionary reforms into effect. Thus, Hungary's future was forever influenced as the result of a peaceful, lawful revolution.

The Hungarian Diet immediately began to work nonstop to pass new laws. By April the Diet had passed 31 progressive measures, which essentially amounted to a new constitution. These "April laws" attempted to provide for the needs of a nation moving towards modernization.

Unfortunately, Hungarians did not have long to experience the effects of the new laws, because factions in the Austrian government were intent on squashing any semblance of Hungarian independence. On September 10, Baron Lelacic, with encouragement from the Habsburgs, let 40,000 Croatian troops across the Hungarian frontier. Hungary, led by Kossuth, was in the process of building up its army, and initially lost several battles to the invaders. Finally, General Arthur-Gorgey, who was to become one of Hungary's greatest generals, was given control of the Hungarian army. By April 1849 Gorgey's military brilliance and the tremendous bravery of the elite Hungarian Honved troops had driven all of the invaders out of Hungary, and Hungary had officially declared its independence from Austria.

The Habsburg's were humiliated and forced to call on Russian Czar Nicholas I for assistance in bringing the now independent Hungary back under Austrian control. As a result, Hungary's independence was short-lived because in June, 1849, a joint Austrian-Russian offensive overwhelmed the valiant Hungarian defenders. On August 13, Gorgey's forces laid down their arms before the Russians at Vilagos. Kossuth was forced to flee his beloved homeland and would live the rest of his life traveling the world to gain support for Hungary's cause. In a speech made prior to his departure, Kossuth said, "My principle were those of George Washington. I love you, Europe's most loyal nation."

It is fitting that within this building—this house of democracy—sits a statue of Louis Kossuth. This is only right and appropriate.

Although, the Hungarian revolution of 1848 did not end in prolonged independence for Hungary, it did result in at least one very noble achievement. The revolution prevented the Austrian government from revoking the emancipation of the peasants and all other unfree persons in the Habsburg's empire. For this historic accomplishment and for striving towards the ideal of the American Revolution, Hungarian and Americans of Hungarian descent should always be proud. I join with the strong Hungarian-American population in the downriver communities to celebrate the Hungarian revolution of 1848, truly an important turning point in the history of the Hungarian nation.

March 4, 1999

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE Y2K STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ACT

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, our contemporary world is ever more dependent upon computers to assist with and manage our daily lives. From the ATM Machine to the desktop PC, to the pacemaker to air traffic control systems—computers and their myriad of programs all work in concert to make our lives better and more productive. On my home island of Guam, computers have improved mass communication with the mainland and overseas areas in all facets of life—law, business, government, commerce, military, trade, transportation and perhaps most important: staying in touch with our families. Because our lives are so intertwined with computers, the Year 2000 or Y2K problem may pose quite a crippling problem to many communities. The Y2K problem was created by a programming oversight. As a result of an archaic, two-digit dating system in computer software and hardware, vital systems may be knocked off-line on January 1, 2000 creating cyber-havoc for many. This concern has led the General Accounting Office to elect the Y2K problem to the top of the "High Risk" list for every federal agency.

There exists a Congressional Research Service (CRS) report, requested at the behest of Senator DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN over three years ago, detailing the implication of the Y2K problem. The report states, among other things, that the Year 2000 problem is a serious problem and the cost of rectifying it will indeed be rather high.

The Federal Government has become rather proficient in getting its agencies and departments to comply with the inevitable re-programming that is required to fixing this bug. But not without some effort. The Senate and the House of Representatives have truly taken the lead on this pressing issue. Under the gentle prodding of Senators MOYNIHAN, BENNETT, and DODD as well as Congressman STEVE HORN, the President appointed a Y2K Council to get the government focused on this issue. They have done well enough that many citizens do not fear the year's end despite the rhetoric of many doomsayers. That said, to paraphrase Robert Frost, we have many miles to go before we sleep.

Up until today, states, territories and local authorities have been left to their own devices in terms of fixing the Year 2000 problem. While most of the Federal Government's critical services may be Y2K compliant by January 1, 2000, many of the states and local jurisdictions will not be. This includes the territories. In Guam, for example, the local Office of the Public Auditor released a study outlining the territorial Y2K problem. While some of GovGuam's departments are Y2K compliant ahead of schedule many are not. Guam's Department of Public Works and the Department of Public Health and Social Services—both lifeblood agencies for both Guam's public infrastructure and poor and handicapped—do

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not have enough money or are behind schedule in performing Y2K conversions. And the story is the same throughout the country in the many cities, counties, towns and territories: time is running out or the money has already ran out.

This bill, which I am introducing today will establish a program that will allow states and territories to apply for funding to initiate Y2K conversions of state computer systems, which distribute federal money for vital welfare programs such as Medicaid, Food Stamps, the supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children, Child Support Enforcement, Child Care and Child Welfare and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. Through the application of Y2K technical assistance funds for these programs, we can insure that the lifeblood of many of the poorest Americans will not be disrupted by the turn of the calendar.

This vital legislation is the house companion bill to the Moynihan-Bennett-Dodd bill (S. 174) as introduced in the Senate. We have modified the original Senate vehicle to insure that the territories and the District of Columbia will not be excluded from this important program—an apparent and accidental oversight of the Senate version. I urge all my colleagues to support this bi-partisan, fiscally responsible and necessary legislation. I would like to thank my colleagues Ms. CHRISTIAN-CHRISTENSEN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ and Mr. FALDOMAEVEGA for lending their support as the representatives from the territories of the U.S. Finally, I want to especially thank Representative HORN and Senators MOYNIHAN, BENNETT, and DODD for taking the lead on educating all Americans on the Y2K problem as well as legislating wise solutions to ameliorate its potentially harmful effects.

POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT
SUPPORT SERVICES CENTER

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay humble tribute to the people of the Poudre School District Support Services Center in Colorado for their efforts to help the needy during the holidays. I commend the faculty as well as all the students, parents, and individuals who contributed to their benefit. Their selfless dedication has provided warmth, comfort, and happiness to families in Colorado. That the center produced presents for 75 needy boys and girls is testament to the true meaning of the spirit of Christmas and Hanukkah. Let us remember, as these good people have, that the holiday season is one of giving, one of joy, and one of hope. Let their example during the holidays be a beacon to us all throughout the year.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROMPT COMPENSATION ACT

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, all of us have heard from constituents in our districts who are frustrated with the process by which the federal government provides compensation to landowners for the private property it acquires through condemnation proceedings. As you know, federal agencies obtain property for all types of reasons, from community and infrastructure development to environmental concerns. Unfortunately, the problem is that this procedure often takes years to complete. Though legally the property owner may develop their property during this process, realistically they are discouraged from doing so. It is for this reason that I am introducing The Prompt Compensation Act.

Currently, the federal government has two available procedures to obtain private property. The first is "straight condemnation", wherein a federal agency requests that the Justice Department file a "complaint in compensation" with a district court. It is the court's responsibility to ascertain the value of the land, utilizing testimony from the federal agency, the property owners and the appropriate appraisers. Once the court has come to a decision, the federal government has the option of compensating the property owner with the adjudicated price, or moving for a dismissal. The landowner is compensated only if the federal government accepts the adjudicated price. Though the federal government forfeits its interest in the property if it moves for a dismissal, the property owner has been deprived of time, revenue and, in some cases, overall value in their land. It is important to remember that not until a judgment is rendered does the United States obtain title and possession of the property.

The second and more expeditious procedure is commonly referred to as "quick take." This is utilized in instances where waiting for a court decision before taking possession of the property is not acceptable. In this procedure, the United States assumes title of the property immediately, or at any time before judgment, by simply filing a "declaration of taking" along with the complaint in condemnation and depositing with the court an amount of money equal to the estimated value of the land. Normal protocol is then followed, with the court ascertaining the value of the property, and the balance is issued to the landowner.

The Prompt Compensation Act will require the federal government to deposit with the court an amount equal to the estimated value of the land within 90 days or it must forfeit its interest in the property, thus making the "quick take" procedure the only alternative available. The Prompt Compensation Act will make a significant impact in curbing the takings authority of the federal government, while at the same time, strengthening the private property rights of America's landowners. I urge all my colleagues to join me in this important endeavor.

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SOCIAL SECURITY GUARANTEE INITIATIVE

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we debate our respective positions on Social Security, let us be mindful of a critical issue facing senior citizens—the prohibitively high cost of prescription drugs. Medicare is the main source of health care for the elderly, yet it does not cover the cost of most prescription drugs.

Many senior citizens live on a limited, fixed income. The cost of prescription drugs is an important issue because senior citizens are more likely to suffer from chronic long-term illnesses, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and Alzheimer's disease which require medication.

Although prescription drugs are covered by most private insurance, thirty-seven percent of senior citizens do not have their own prescription drug coverage. The average senior citizen takes several medications a day (up to 30 prescriptions a year) and many of them pay for their own medications out of pocket.

Senior citizens who cannot afford their medication may not fill them or may not take the proper dosages which can endanger their lives. Seniors who do not take their medication risk living in pain, being hospitalized, or even death.

The cost of prescription drugs directly affects the health and welfare of the elderly. We cannot force our senior citizens to make a choice between buying food and buying their medication. This should not be choice between life and death. We must offer plans to reform the Medicare program that protect the interests of our seniors.

IN HONOR OF MOORPARK HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Moorpark High School, which, for the second consecutive year, will represent Ventura County in the Academic Decathlon California state finals on March 12.

These 16 students are representative of the best and brightest our country has to offer. I say that without exaggeration. Moorpark High School's A Team is rated second-best in the country—quite a feat for a relatively small high school. And their coaches, head coach Larry Jones and assistant coach Michelle Bergman, are examples of what is right in our educational system today. Their dedication is to be applauded.

Moorpark High School fielded two teams to compete in the Ventura County Academic Decathlon against the best and brightest from other country high schools on Feb. 6. At the end of the day, Moorpark High's two teams bested all the rest, coming in first and second.